



# City Administrator's Report

September 2008

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.*

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## Key Meetings

<b>City Council Meetings</b>	September 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , and 30 <sup>th</sup> . City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.
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## Community Events

### ***Downtown Farmer's Market***

Tuesdays, 4 to 7:30 p.m., 500 and 600 blocks of State Street. Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., corner of Santa Barbara and Cota Streets.

### ***9-11 Concert***

Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 4 to 6 p.m. *Santa Barbara Sister Cities International* presents the September 11<sup>th</sup>. Concert at Santa Barbara City College West Campus, 721 Cliff Drive.

### ***Carrillo Recreation Center Open House***

Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. For details, visit [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

### ***Day of Caring***

Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For event times and locations, visit the website at: <http://www.unitedwaysb.org>.

### ***Book and Author Festival***

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Central Library Faulkner Gallery, 40 East Anapamu Street.

## Flags on State Street

[www.santabarbaradowntown.com](http://www.santabarbaradowntown.com)

September 11<sup>th</sup>

September 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>

The Granada

September 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>

U.C.S.B.

September 19<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>

Community Arts Music Association

September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>

(C.A.M.A.)

## City Administrator's Office

**2008 Annual Sustainability Report Released.** The 2008 Annual Sustainability Report, a compilation of the City's achievements in environmental programs, is now available to the public. The Report includes the City's best practices in 17 different program areas. Tips and Internet resources are provided for the public to learn how to be "green" at home and work. One key highlight is surpassing the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas emission targets a few years ahead of schedule. 2006 emissions from City operations were 10% lower than estimated 1990 emissions. The report is available on the City's website at [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

**Watch Inside Santa Barbara.** *Inside Santa Barbara* is City TV Channel 18's award-winning news magazine show. In this episode of *Inside Santa Barbara*, learn more about the Santa Barbara Airport's Terminal Project Phase I, Measure G, State of the Art Gallery, and the Russ Morrison Youth Golf Program. This episode will premiere on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. The program also repeats every Monday at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10 p.m. You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* on-line by visiting the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

## Administrative Services Department

**Budget Manager Recruitment.** The City is recruiting for the position of Budget Manager. The primary responsibility of the Budget Manager is the coordination of the City's two-year financial plan and annual budget. The deadline to apply is Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the position and application process, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## Airport Department

**Passenger Count Grows.** In July, 80,943 passengers arrived and departed at Santa Barbara Airport (SBA). This was 10.7% increase over the same month last year. The growth in passenger traffic is attributed to the two new airlines servicing SBA, Allegiant Airlines and Express Jet, in addition to more passengers flying aboard USAirways. The highest average capacity flights were aboard American Eagle regional jets to Dallas/Ft Worth and Horizon Air's service to Seattle.

**Curbside Check-in Service Ceased.** Effective this month, curbside check-in services are no longer available at Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) due to airline cutbacks. SkyWest Airlines (which operates United and Delta flights at SBA) compensated the services but gave notice to the local business owner when an airline survey revealed that only 3 to 6% of its customers were using the service. Curbside check-in used an airline computer to access the reservation system to check bags and issue boarding passes. Airport staff met with the business owner to

discuss possible options for continuing the service, but none of them proved viable without the use of the airline reservation system.

## Community Development Department

**Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission will meet on September 18<sup>th</sup> to consider local approval of the portion of the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project that is in the Coastal Zone. Since federal funds are not currently available to start project construction, the City and the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District are moving ahead with the first part of the project. The Commission will also have an annual review of the Staff hearing Officer and a discussion of the Planning Commission and Staff Hearing Officer Standard Conditions of approval.

## Finance Department

**July Transient Occupancy Tax up 0.9%.** Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue for the first month of the new fiscal year was up 0.9%. This falls short of the 3% growth rate factored into the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget. Although this represents just the first month of the new fiscal year, July is traditionally the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest TOT month (after August) and it is a concern that this important revenue source is already behind the curve.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX								
Month	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%	\$ 1,628,173	0.9%
Aug	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%		
Sept	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%		
Oct	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%		
Nov	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%		
Dec	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%		
Jan	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%		
Feb	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%		
Mar	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%	1,000,573	4.9%		
April	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%	958,282	-8.5%		
May	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%	1,118,049	6.2%		
June	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%	1,262,909	1.0%		
<b>FY Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,032,372</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>\$ 12,691,167</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>\$ 12,935,553</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>\$ 1,628,173</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ 11,504,200</b>		<b>\$ 12,630,600</b>		<b>\$ 13,581,500</b>		<b>\$ 13,334,000</b>	

Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).

## Fire Department

**Clearing the Road.** The Fire Department started the annual Fire Hazard Vegetation Road Clearance Project on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The work will continue through November 21<sup>st</sup>. This year

contractors will be clearing 14 miles of roads in the Extreme Foothill and Foothill Zone of the high fire hazard areas funded by the Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District. In past years this effort has resulted in removing over 400 cubic yards of flammable vegetation from the high fire hazard areas. The City Council adoption of the Wildland Fire Plan in 2004 and the establishment of the Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District have become models for communities throughout the western United States.

***Firefighters Move to Temporary Quarters.*** The fire crews of Fire Station 1 at 121 West Carrillo Street have moved into temporary modular trailers on-site to allow the general contractor access to the City's downtown fire station for the seismic remodel project. This major seismic remodel project will take nearly a year to complete, with fire crews planning to move back into the building (originally constructed in 1959) during the summer of 2009. Timely responses to emergencies have not been affected in any way and the Department is maintaining its four-minute average response time from the station.

## Library Department

***Book and Author Festival Returns to Central Library.*** The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara Book and Author Festival will again be held at the Santa Barbara Public Library on September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This event is free to the public and will celebrate books and encourage reading and the love of learning. Authors will gather to speak, read, and discuss books. Discussions will focus on topics such as family reading, poetry readings, mysteries, media writing, *Speaking of Stories* and *Santa Barbara Reads*. Three literary awards will be presented: The Ross Macdonald Literary Award, the Luis Leal Award, and the Glenna Luschei Distinguished Poet Fellowship. The Festival is a partnership between the Santa Barbara Public Library System, the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and UCSB and is an exciting day for the entire family.

***Eastside Library Beautification.*** Working with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 20 children have been making artistic tiles on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Eastside Library. Their creative and beautiful works of art will be permanently displayed on one of the walls of the Library's patio. An unveiling celebration will be scheduled for September.

In addition, *Pura Vida*, an organization that meets each week at the Eastside Library, has volunteered their services to freshen up the appearance of the Library. They have received the "recipe" for the paint color and approval from the City, and will be painting an exterior wall at the entrance. They will also donate drought-tolerant California native plants and volunteer their time and energy to plant them in the library's patio. The plants will make the area more pleasant for patrons, attract butterflies and beneficial insects, and require minimal watering. The volunteer project will be complete by mid-September.

***Knitting is New at the Montecito Branch Library.*** The Montecito Library has begun a knitting workshop for teens and youth age ten and older on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 2:30 p.m. All levels of knitters welcome!

The Friends of the Montecito Library will host a book talk on October 1<sup>st</sup> by local author Bill Davis and his fellow World War II veteran Arthur Schultz. Both men will speak of their experiences as pilots during the war.

## Parks and Recreation

***Making a Splash at Los Baños Pool.*** The recent renovation of Los Baños Pool finished ahead of schedule and the pool re-opened on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Components of the project include the removal and replacement of the deep end pool wall, new pool plaster, and lane line marker tiles. This is the third renovation of Los Banos. During earlier renovations, the pool decks, plaster, plumbing, and equipment were upgraded and the weight and locker rooms were renovated.

***Dancing with the Instructors.*** The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House Week at the Carrillo Recreation Center on 100 East Carrillo Street, from September 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. During the week, all adult classes are offered at no charge to new and returning students. For the first time, Monday night will open with dance performances by some of the department's most popular instructors. From 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in the Carrillo Gym, come see ballroom, tango, hoop dance, flamenco and belly dance demonstrations. All who attend this demo have a chance to enter a raffle to win \$500 worth of select classes. Another Open House at the Twelve35 Teen Center will also be held that week (Monday through Friday) from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the Carrillo Recreation Center at 897-2519 or visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

***Elementary and Junior High After School Programs Start.*** The Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP) for grades one through six is being offered this year at Adams, Franklin, Monroe, Open Alternative, Roosevelt, and Washington Elementary Schools. This affordable after school program, co-sponsored by the Santa Barbara School District, provides homework assistance, crafts, clubs, free sports leagues, and field trips to nearly 400 elementary school children last year. The Junior High Sports and Enrichment Program also kicks off this fall with after school activities that include flag football, volleyball, cross-country, track and field, soccer, martial arts, softball and basketball. These activities are free to students at Santa Barbara, La Cumbre, La Colina and Goleta Valley Junior High Schools. Co-sponsors with Parks and Recreation include the Police Activities League (PAL) and Club West. For more information, call the Youth Activities office at (805) 564-5495.

***A New Face at the Parks and Recreation Department.*** Scott McGregor joined the Parks and Recreation team as the new Business Manager, replacing recently retired Nancy Woods. Scott comes to the City from the County Public Defenders Office, where he served as their Business Manager. He has his Ph.D. in Accounting and formerly taught at Florida State University. He is currently teaching a class at UCSB. Additionally, Scott served as the Executive Director of a non-profit organization in Florida for nearly ten years, so he brings fundraising, grant writing, and marketing experience to the Department in addition to his accounting expertise.

***Oak Park Playground Construction Now Completed.*** Two new playgrounds have been installed at Oak Park, designed and separated for different age groups: two to five years old and five to twelve years old. These new playgrounds have rubberized fall surfacing, bouncers, slides, swings and a climbing rock.

## Police Department

**Beach Clean-up.** On August 22<sup>nd</sup> at approximately 4 a.m., the Police Department Tactical Patrol Force conducted a beach enforcement sweep from the 00 block to the 800 block of East Cabrillo Boulevard. Forty-four people were cited for illegal lodging or possessing alcohol. One person was booked at Santa Barbara County Jail for illegal lodging and two people were booked into Santa Barbara County Jail for outstanding warrants. A total of four cubic yards of trash were removed from the beach with the help of the Public Works Department Streets Division.

**Police Officer Recruitment.** The Santa Barbara Police Department is accepting Police Officer entry level applications. Recruitment closes on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The Department has found that the best recruitment tool is word of mouth. If you know of someone you think would be an excellent police officer in Santa Barbara, encourage them to apply. To apply visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov), or contact Sergeant Charles McChesney, Training and Recruitment Officer, at 897-3731.

**September PAL Programs.** The Santa Barbara Police Department's Police Activities League (PAL) will be kicking off the new Junior High After School Program with partners from the Santa Barbara School District, and Parks and Recreation Department. One new activity this year that PAL will be conducting is martial arts lessons on the campuses of Santa Barbara and La Colina Junior High Schools. Also, on September 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> PAL will be taking 13 kids to Silverwood Lake as part of the Statewide California PAL Camporee for an opportunity for the kids to meet other PAL participants from other areas. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, PAL will be kicking off their second year collaboration with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art of providing art classes to McKinley, Harding, Cleveland, Adams, and Franklin Elementary Schools. In addition, PAL will be hosting a "digital editing" program at the PAL learning center located in the annex at the Santa Barbara Police Department. For more information on any of these programs contact the Santa Barbara Police Department's Police Activities League at 962-5560.

## Public Works Department

**Santa Barbara's Largest Solar Energy Project.** On Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, the City kicked off its largest solar photovoltaic project at an event at the City Parks Yard. People who attended the event learned how the project will supply over half the energy demand of the Public Works and Community Development Offices. The City partnered with Tioga Energy and EI Solutions to plan this innovative renewable energy project. EI Solutions designed and will construct the system using Suntech solar panels. Tioga Energy will finance, own, and operate the solar energy system.

**Green Gardener Program Receives Award.** The Green Gardener Program received the Outstanding Regional Stormwater News, Information, Outreach, and Media Project Award from the California Stormwater Quality Association. The City and County of Santa Barbara, along with other local agencies sponsor the Green Gardener Program for Santa Barbara County. In the last few years the Green Gardener Program has been picked up by other agencies throughout California. The Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program is one of those agencies that now have a Green Gardener Program. They nominated Santa



Barbara for this award. For more information on the City and County's Green Gardener Program, visit the website at: [www.greengardener.org](http://www.greengardener.org).

**Take the 20 Gallon Challenge.** Given Santa Barbara's arid climate, water conservation needs to be a way of life for all residents. The City's website contains many useful tips for water conservation and services. The City's *20 Gallon Challenge* website allows residents to calculate how much additional water they can save each day by making small changes in their habits. Take the *20 Gallon Challenge* today by visiting the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

**Save Water by Checking Timers.** With the Gap Fire, many areas of the City experienced power outages. Make sure to check the settings on your sprinkler timer and water softener after a power outage. If the batteries are not fully charged, your custom programs will be erased during a power outage and the default program will become active. The default program on sprinkler timers will water every station, every day for ten minutes. This may double your water bill, so check you timer.

**Requests for Home Water Checkups Increasing.** The City's Water Resources Division provides a valuable resource for local residents and businesses by visiting properties and conducting a thorough inspection of water use both inside and outside. Many Santa Barbara residents have been taking advantage of this service. During Fiscal Year 2008, 512 inspections were conducted. To schedule your water checkup call 564-5460 or visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

**Zaca Fire Effects Still Felt at Cater Water Treatment Plant.** The runoff of ash and debris into the Cater Water Treatment Plant continues to impact water treatment operations. City staff has successfully treated the water to meet all drinking water standards, but this has required the use of additives to the treatment process.

**Desalination Facility Rehabilitation Planning Study.** On August 12<sup>th</sup>, the City Council approved a \$122,000 study to potentially rehabilitate the City's Charles Meyer Desalination Facility. Costs, feasibility, and regulatory issues related to rehabilitating the City's desalination facility will be assessed. The facility was built and operated as a temporary emergency water supply during the drought in the late 1980's and was mothballed shortly after the drought ended. Today it remains part of the City's Long Term Water Supply Plan and is important as a drought proof water supply. For the past ten years, the facility has been maintained in a "storage" mode rather than a "ready" mode to minimize maintenance costs. The study will provide much needed information for both the City's Long Term Water Supply Program and the ongoing Plan Santa Barbara process.

## Waterfront Department

**Seventh Annual Harbor and Seafood Festival.** When it comes to fresh seafood, you can't get it any fresher than right off the boat. On Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Santa Barbara Harbor and Seafood Festival lures seafood lovers of all ages to Santa Barbara's thriving Harbor for one of the community's most flavorful events showcasing a plethora of delectable regional seafood specialties. Proceeds from the festival support the Page Youth Center.



Returning festival favorites include cooking demonstrations, interactive maritime education, unique children's activities, boat rides, live music and much more. Since 2002, the annual Harbor and Seafood Festival has become the City's signature autumn event. Advertised throughout central and southern California, the seafood festival brings people together for a day full of fun. Admission is free. For more information, call 897-1962 or visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

Climb aboard a really tall ship at the Harbor and Seafood Festival! Hosted by the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, the revolutionary war era tall ship *Spirit of Dana Point* will make its stay during the entire month of October. The crew will provide tours and hands-on activities for the entire family. For more tall ship activities visit the website at: [www.sbmm.org](http://www.sbmm.org).